



Marin County
Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION

**COMMENDING
LEONEL ANTONIO CHEVEZ**

WHEREAS, Leonel Antonio Chévez was born in the eastern region of El Salvador, Central America and is best known by his people as an indigenous representative of the Maya-Lenca, a rural health worker and a native artist; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, Chévez was displaced by the civil war in El Salvador when his El Tihuilote village was destroyed, forcing him to become a refugee at the age of nine; and

WHEREAS, despite the ongoing civil war, Chévez continued his formal education in El Salvador as a primary health care worker, and dedicated himself to assist neighboring villages that were ignored by the State system; and

WHEREAS, during this period, he worked with his indigenous grandmother who taught him about the traditional Maya-Lenca medicine system. Together they managed the rural health program for ten years, in the region that was once a kingdom ruled by his family (The Jaguar People); and

WHEREAS, in the absence of official medical literature, Chévez drew posters, pamphlets and educational drawings to facilitate health education and community development. Chévez' art became the link for his people between abstract Western medical concepts and the traditional and mythological indigenous world view; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the United Nations Organization proclaimed the International Year of the Indigenous People, paving the way for tribal Chiefs such as Chévez to be formally reinstated as the symbolic head of his indigenous Maya Lenca Nation; which consequently brought persecution by the death squads; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Chévez went into exile in Australia, where he again undertook the challenge of incorporating his cultural identity and heritage into a new way of life, and reopened the Maya Lenca House in exile; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, he took the indigenous Princely Oath in exile, and he completed a Bachelor of Applied Health Science at the University of Queensland, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling at the Australian College of Applied Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Chévez is currently a key adviser to several indigenous councils in North, Central and South America, and maintains close links as personal adviser to several Australian indigenous and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, Leonel Antonio Chévez is recognized by the Marin County Board of Supervisors in his official capacity as the Manauelike, holder of the traditional Maya-Lenca oral histories of Central America, a symbolic head of his tribe, and as an indigenous activist and educator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors expresses its admiration for the lifelong commitment of Chévez to his indigenous community and extends wishes that the good will between the House of the Jaguar, the Maya Lenca People and the Marin community flourish and prosper from this day on.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 24th day of May 2011.


Supervisor


President


Clerk



Certificate of Honor

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:

Chief Chevez

In appreciation of your perseverance to support and advocate on behalf of the Indigenous people of the Americas while maintaining passion for community health and development over the last 20 years.



Supervisor David Campos

April 10, 2010





**COMITE DE FESTEJOS DE
LOMA LARGA EN BOSTON MA**

Otorga a:
Leonel Chevez
Jefe Tribal Lenca

*Por la visita que nos hace a nuestra actividad
desde Australia, por lo cual nuestra Comunicad
De Loma Larga radicada en Boston,
le agradece por el apoyo incondicional*

Otorgado en la ciudad de East Boston MA
10 de Marzo del 2012

Rosario Chicas
Presidenta

Omar Contreras
Secretario